

UNITED STATES  
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BRAD CARSON  
CONGRESSMAN

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 16, 2003

***Congressman To Serve As Oklahoma Substitute Teacher  
Budget Crunch Motivates Carson and Staff To Substitute Teach***

Washington, D.C. --

Muskogee, OK – Eastern Oklahoma Congressman Brad Carson (D-OK) announced today that he, along with his Oklahoma Congressional staff, will be volunteering to rotate and serve one day a week as volunteer substitute teachers in order to help ease the financial burden felt by many school districts in Oklahoma.

In addition, Congressman Carson has decided to close down his Congressional office on February 12th to send all ten members of his Oklahoma Congressional staff out to area schools to fill in for teachers so that the teachers may take the day to rally at the state capital in Oklahoma City.

Members of Congressman Carson's staff will donate a day of annual leave time in order to take a day to volunteer to substitute teach.

"There is no one to better represent this crisis to the state legislature than our teachers whom we entrust on a daily basis to educate our children," said Congressman Carson. "It is my hope that we can play a role in allowing our teachers to go to the state capital and advocate keeping the doors open to our rural schools."

"This decision is a small step in helping out our schools who are in nothing less than a major crisis," said Congressman Carson. "There is no easy solution. In this state, we have to make education the priority in reality and no longer just a priority in rhetoric. Schools in Oklahoma are broke and quickly running out of options. I'm confident that Governor Henry and the state legislature are working with the education community to ensure that Oklahoma's schools receive the funding they so desperately deserve."

During his first two years in office, Congressman Carson has made it a priority to increase federal funding to local schools. Congressman Carson proudly announced in June of 2001 that fifteen schools in his Congressional district had received more than \$7 million in federal grant funding, which was more funding than was received by the entire

state of Texas. He also has fought to increase money for school construction, upgrading technology in classrooms and equal funding for rural schools.

“Educating the future, our children, equates into a better economy, safer streets and a brighter tomorrow for Oklahoma,” said Congressman Carson. “Although the majority of funding for our public school system lies with the state government, I am dedicated in Congress to supporting ways in which the federal government can help secure funding for our local schools.”

\*\*For administrators to call and request one of the Congressman’s staff members to substitute teach at their school, please call (918) 687-2533.\*\*

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